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15 (additional counsel listed after caption)

16 *Attorneys for Claimant*
17 TAREK OBAID

18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
19 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

20 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
21 Plaintiff,

22 v.

23 CERTAIN RIGHTS TO AND
24 INTERESTS IN SHARES OF SERIES
25 D PREFERRED STOCK IN
26 PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES,
27 Defendant.

Case No. 2:17-CV-04446-DSF-PLA

**DECLARATION OF DAVID B.
RIVKIN, JR. IN COMPLIANCE
WITH THE COURT'S JUNE 5,
2023 ORDER GRANTING BAKER
& HOSTETLER LLP'S MOTION
TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL
OF RECORD FOR CLAIMANT
TAREK OBAID [DKT. 111]**

1 *(Additional Counsel of Record)*

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20 *Attorneys for Claimant*
21 TAREK OBAID

DECLARATION OF DAVID B. RIVKIN, JR.

I, David B. Rivkin, Jr., declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, am partner of the law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP (the “Firm”), attorneys of record for Claimant Tarek Obaid (“Mr. Obaid”) in this forfeiture action, and am admitted *pro hac vice* to this Court to appear in this action. I make this declaration in compliance with the Court’s June 5, 2023 Order GRANTING Baker & Hostetler LLP’s Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record for Claimant Tarek Obaid [Dkt. 111] and to inform Mr. Obaid of the contents herein. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and, if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. On June 5, 2023, the Court entered its Order Granting the Firm’s Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record for Claimant Tarek Obaid [Dkt. 111] (“Order”). Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of the Order.

3. As permitted by the Order, Mr. Obaid’s current address is assumed to be the address noted on the FedEx tracking label: [REDACTED] (“Address”). Upon information and belief, Mr. Obaid’s last known telephone number is: [REDACTED]. The Address will be the address to which all future documents will be served or sent until changed by appropriate notice or substitution of attorney.

4. There are no future, upcoming dates or deadlines set in the above-captioned action.

5. Any individual appearing *pro se* will be required to comply with the Court’s standing order, the Central District of California’s Local Rules, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and all other Federal Rules.

6. The Firm can provide Mr. Obaid’s case file to Mr. Obaid in hard copy or electronically via a secure FTP file. If Mr. Obaid would like his case file in hard copy, he should provide the Firm with the name, address, and telephone number of

1 his new counsel to whom the Firm will FedEx a hard copy of Mr. Obaid's case file
2 (or, if Mr. Obaid is electing to proceed *pro se*, provide the Firm with the address
3 where he would like to receive a hard copy of his case file via FedEx). If Mr.
4 Obaid would like his case file in electronic format via a secure FTP file, Mr. Obaid
5 should provide the Firm with the name and e-mail address of his new counsel to
6 whom the Firm will send an electronic copy of Mr. Obaid's case file via a secure
7 FTP file (or, if Mr. Obaid is electing to proceed *pro se*, provide the Firm with the e-
8 mail address where he would like to receive an electronic copy of his case file via
9 secure FTP file).

10 7. Although Mr. Obaid is proceeding *pro se*, i.e., without legal
11 representation, he nonetheless is required to comply with Court orders, the Local
12 Rules, and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See* C.D. Cal. L.R. 83-2.2.3. The
13 Local Rules are available on the Court's website,
14 <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-procedures/local-rules>.

15 8. The Court cannot provide legal advice to any party, including *pro se*
16 litigants, i.e., parties who are not represented by a lawyer. There is a free "*Pro Se*
17 *Clinic*" that can provide information and guidance about many aspects of civil
18 litigation in this Court.

19 9. Parties in court without a lawyer are called "*pro se* litigants." These
20 parties often face special challenges in federal court. Public Counsel runs a free
21 Federal Pro Se Clinic where *pro se* litigants can get information and guidance. The
22 Clinic is located at the Roybal Federal Building and Courthouse, 255 East Temple
23 Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (note that the clinic may not be open for in-person
24 appointments during the pandemic). *Pro se* litigants must call or submit an on-line
25 application to request services as follows: on-line applications can be submitted at
26 <http://prose.cacd.uscourts.gov/los-angeles>, or call (213) 385-2977, ext. 270.

27 10. *Pro se* litigants may submit documents for filing through the Court's
28 Electronic Document Submission System (EDSS) instead of mailing or bringing

1 documents to the Clerk's Office. Only internet access and an e-mail address are
2 required. Documents are submitted in PDF format through an online portal on the
3 Court's website. To access EDSS and for additional information, visit the Court's
4 website at <https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/edss>.

5 11. Attorneys may not use EDSS to submit documents on behalf of their
6 clients. Attorneys are required by the local rules to file documents electronically
7 using the Court's CM/ECF System.

8 12. As the Court noted in its Order, "[a]s [Mr.] Obaid is obviously
9 represented by other counsel, service [of this declaration] on one of those other
10 counsel will be deemed sufficient" service of the Order and this declaration.

11 13. Effective on the date the Firm complies with the Order (*i.e.* the date
12 that the Firm files this Declaration along with proof of service), Mr. Obaid will
13 represent himself, and the docket will be amended to reflect the Address for Mr.
14 Obaid.

15 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
16 America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on June 13, 2023, at
17 Washington, D.C.

18
19 David B. Rivkin, Jr.
David B. Rivkin, Jr.

Exhibit A

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

v.

CERTAIN RIGHTS TO AND
INTERESTS IN SHARES OF
SERIES D PREFERRED STOCK
IN PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES,
Defendant.

CV 17-4446 (DSF) (PLAx)

Order GRANTING Baker &
Hostetler LLP's Motion to
Withdraw as Counsel of Record
for Claimant Tarek Obaid (Dkt.
106)

Baker & Hostetler LLP's Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record for Claimant Tarek Obaid was filed on April 19, 2023. Opposition was due on May 1, 2023. No opposition was filed and the Court had not received any timely pleadings or communications from Tarek Obaid. The Court issued an order conditionally granting the motion. However, on May 15, 2023, the Court received a letter from Mr. Obaid stating that he did not agree that Baker & Hostetter should be allowed to withdraw, arguing that there had been no breakdown in communications and he had paid the firm "substantial sums."

Having read and considered the Reply in support of the Motion, the Court again deems this matter appropriate for

decision without oral argument. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 78; Local Rule 7-15.

Good cause has been shown. The Reply confirms the difficulties Baker & Hostetter has had communicating with Obaid, and no grounds support denying the Motion. Therefore, the Court grants the Motion effective on the date that moving counsel files and serves – on the client and all attorneys of record – a declaration (in the form specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1746) that:

(1) Sets forth the client’s current address and telephone number. As Baker & Hostetter has made more than reasonable efforts to obtain this information, it may assume the address is that noted on the FedEx tracking label unless it is immediately provided with a different address by Obaid or his other counsel;

(2) Informs the client and all attorneys of record that the stated address will be the address to which all future documents will be served or sent until changed by appropriate notice or substitution of attorney;

(3) Informs the client of all future dates now set in this action, including, but not limited to, pre-trial conference related dates, discovery cut-off dates, the motion cut-off date, and dates relating to any pending discovery obligations;

(4) Informs Obaid that any individual appearing pro se will be required to comply with this Court’s standing orders, this District’s Local Rules, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and all other Federal Rules;

(5) Informs the client when and where the client may obtain the client’s case file, if it is not already in the client’s possession;

(6) Informs the client of the following:

Although the client is proceeding *pro se*, *i.e.*, without legal representation, he nonetheless is required to comply with Court orders, the Local Rules, and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. See C.D. Cal. L.R. 83-2.2.3. The Local Rules are available on the Court's website, <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-procedures/local-rules>.

The Court cannot provide legal advice to any party, including *pro se* litigants, *i.e.*, parties who are not represented by a lawyer. There is a free "*Pro Se Clinic*" that can provide information and guidance about many aspects of civil litigation in this Court.

Parties in court without a lawyer are called "pro se litigants." These parties often face special challenges in federal court. Public Counsel runs a free Federal Pro Se Clinic where pro se litigants can get information and guidance. The Clinic is located at the Roybal Federal Building and Courthouse, 255 East Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (note that the clinic may not be open for in-person appointments during the pandemic). Pro se litigants must call or submit an on-line application to request services as follows: on-line applications can be submitted at <http://prose.cacd.uscourts.gov/los-angeles>, or call (213) 385-2977, ext. 270.

Pro se litigants may submit documents for filing through the Court's Electronic Document Submission System (EDSS) instead of mailing or bringing documents to the Clerk's Office. Only internet access and an e-mail address are required. Documents are submitted in PDF format through an online portal on the Court's website. To access EDSS and for additional information, visit the Court's website at <https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/edss>.

Attorneys may not use EDSS to submit documents on behalf of their clients. Attorneys are required by the local rules to file documents electronically using the Court's CM/ECF System.


Counsel must also provide a proof of service of this Order and the required declaration. As Obaid is obviously represented by other counsel, service on one of those other counsel will be deemed sufficient.

Failure to comply with the above requirements by June 23, 2023 will result in the denial of the Motion.

Effective on the date counsel complies with this Order, the client will represent himself, and the docket will be amended to reflect the address for the client as described in counsel's declaration.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: June 5, 2023


Dale S. Fischer
United States District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action. My business address is 11601 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, California 90025-0509.

On June 13, 2023, I served the foregoing document(s) described as:
DECLARATION OF DAVID B. RIVKIN, JR. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COURT'S JUNE 5, 2023 ORDER GRANTING BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR CLAIMANT TAREK OBAID [DKT. 111], on the interested parties in this action:

VIA CM/ECF

DEBORAH CONNOR, Chief Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture Section (MLARS)

MARY BUTLER, Chief, International Unit

JONATHAN BAUM, Senior Trial Attorney

BARBARA Y. LEVY, Trial Attorney

JOSHUA L. SOHN, Trial Attorney (CBN: 250105)

Criminal Division

United States Department of Justice

1400 New York Avenue, N.W. 10th Floor

Washington, D.C. 20530

Telephone: (202) 514-1263

Email: Joshua.Sohn@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiff,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VIA FEDEX AND E-MAIL

Claimant TAREK OBAID

[REDACTED]

VIA FEDEX AND E-MAIL

ANDY KERMAN

JAMES THORNDYKE

Armstrong Teasdale

Royal College of Surgeons of England

38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London, WC2A 3PE

Email: akerman@atllp.co.uk;

jthorndyke@atllp.co.uk

U.K. Attorneys for Claimant

Tarek Obaid

- 1 ☒ **By ELECTRONIC MAIL:** by causing a true and correct copy thereof to
2 be transmitted electronically to the attorney(s) of record at the e-mail
3 address(es) indicated above.
- 4 ☒ **By CM/ECF:** I hereby certify that on the below date, I electronically filed
5 the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which
6 will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the
7 Electronic Mail notice list, and I hereby certify that I have mailed the
8 foregoing document or paper via the United States Postal Service to the
9 non-CM/ECF participants (if any) indicated on the Manual Notice list.
- 10 ☒ **BY INTERNATIONAL PRIORITY EXPRESS DELIVERY:** by
11 placing the document(s) listed above in a **FEDEX** sealed envelope,
12 affixing a pre-paid air bill, and causing the envelope to be delivered to an
13 **FEDEX** agent for international priority express delivery to the address(es)
14 indicated above.

15 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
16 America that the above is true and correct.

17 Executed on June 13, 2023, at Los Angeles, California.

18 /s/ Roxana Guevara

19 Roxana Guevara